

## ABOUT

This study focuses on three objectives: (1) examining how culturally relevant texts influence student engagement and understanding; (2) exploring how they affirm students' identities; and (3) assessing their role in building comprehension and critical thinking in elementary students. Through student work, test scores, and my reflections, I aim to explore how culturally relevant literacy shapes comprehension and critical thinking in the classroom.

## CONTEXT

Since the 1980s, public schools have become more culturally and linguistically diverse, often including non-white and English language learners. Traditional curricula can overlook their experiences, affecting engagement and comprehension. Culturally relevant literature helps bridge this gap by reflecting student identities, encouraging critical thinking, and providing broader contextual understanding.

## PURPOSE

This research is both a professional and personal exploration of how culturally relevant texts impact student comprehension and engagement. I aim to understand how this approach supports reading growth, affirms students' identities, and fosters a more inclusive, thoughtful classroom environment.

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# IMPACT OF CULTURALLY RELEVANT LITERACY ON COMPREHENSION LEVEL AMONG ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

**SABRINA HE**

## METHOD 1

I will use student artifacts to gain insight into their thought processes and comprehension. Unlike test scores, which show only right or wrong answers, their work reveals how they think and understand the material.

## METHOD 2

I will compare students' test scores from the beginning and end of the year, including state exams, to assess growth in comprehension. This data will help determine whether culturally relevant literacy narrows comprehension gaps over time.

## CONNECTION

This research reflects my dedication to building a classroom where all students feel seen and valued. By using culturally relevant literature, I aim to boost comprehension while affirming students' identities and experiences. When students see their stories reflected in texts, it deepens engagement, critical thinking, and growth. This study is both a professional inquiry and a personal step toward more equitable, meaningful education.